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UCAPAWA News

UNITED CANNERY, AGRICULTURAL, PACKING AND ALLIED WORKERS OF AMERICA-CIO

Vol. IV, No. 7 | May 1, 1943 | 68 | Price 5 cents

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Big Turnout At Victory Conference

Camden, N. J.—In what was considered the broadest and most democratic people's meeting that has been held during this war, the South Jersey Legislative Conference, meeting here two weeks ago, urged an immediate offensive on the European continent. The conference represented a quarter million workers and farmers from all walks of life.

Local 80 (Campbell Soup) was prominent among the representatives of the powerful CIO and AFL unions in this war production center, together with delegates from five farm organizations, three church groups, several political parties (including Democrats, Communists and Socialists), the YWCA and nine other civic and educational organizations.

No Negotiated Peace

"We don't want any negotiated peace," John Green, president of IUMSWA, the shipbuilding workers union, told the cheering delegates.

Criticizing McNutt's labor freezing order, Green said: "There is no scarcity of labor in the country. What we need is an over-all agency that will tie our production and manpower together. They cannot be separated."

Among the other speakers was Eugene Cotton, CIO Assistant General counsel, and Paul Sifton, who exposed the plan of the farm bloc to maintain a stranglehold on American agriculture and cut down the production of food for victory.

$25,000 Income Limit

The conference went on record for a comprehensive win-the-war program to stabilize prices, wages and taxes along the lines of the CIO policy to strengthen the President's "hold the line" order, roll back prices, give workers the benefit of increased production, and limit incomes to $25,000.

Local 80 was fully represented, participating in the enthusiastic discussion from the floor. Carmen Parente of Campbell Soup, and labor's candidate for city commissioner of Camden, was elected secretary of the Resolutions Committee; Anna Layton, also of Local 80, was made secretary of the Credentials Committee; and Tony Valentino, President of Local 80, was on the Rules Committee. Also present were Ethel Jackson, Sylvia Neff, Benjamin Cetani, Benjamin Butler, Pauline Mickle, Anna Magee, Mike Janice, Dave Shapley and Clifford Cooper.

This Legislative Conference, which drew labor, farmer and community groups together for political action, is one of many planned by the CIO in industrial areas all over the country.

Keep Your

(Watch for announcement in the next issue of the News. We are going on a National hook-up.)

CHICAGO WORKERS PARADE ON THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL MAY DAY, 1890

This Is May Day

ON MAY DAY, workers all over the world celebrate their victories; they clasp their hands across nations and continents demanding their economic security and political rights.

Today, American labor is fighting its most terrible enemy, fascism. The backbone of our country's war effort, labor's cry on this May Day, 1943, is: "Production for Victory!—Everything to win the war!"

May Day is an international workers' celebration. It started as a strike day of American labor in 1886, for the demand for an 8-hour day. Four years later, the labor movements in many European countries joined with American labor in celebrating this day.

Early May Day demonstrations were marked by police brutality and bloodshed. But organized workers in spite of the world for their great holiday. In peacetime, May Day, has meant gigantic demonstrations through the streets of the great cities—hundreds of thousands of workers leaving their shops and factories and marching with their families, with their unions and organizations, bearing colorful banners and singing songs of struggle and victory.

This year, that strong and militant voice will be raised after working hours, for a supreme task comes first: production. In this period of all-out war for the preservation of the democratic liberties so dear to the hearts of working people, May Day carries with it a new meaning.

On May Day, 1943, American labor raises its determined cry for **an immediate 2nd front in Europe, for international labor unity,** and for **national unity behind the win-the-war policies of our President.**

On May Day, 1943, American labor defends its well-earned rights on far-flung battlefields, on the production line, and in the lobbies of Congress. American workers salute their gallant Allies, who are fighting fascism with undying determination on the Russian front, on the desert sands of Africa, and in the villages of pillaged China. American workers are pledging with their sweat and toil to bring back new life to the enslaved peoples of the occupied countries of Europe.

Our Union Acts Against Threat To Food Labor

Attack on Food Processing Workers

Philadelphia—If Wayne Darrow and Col. Taylor of the Farm Labor Administration of the Department of Agriculture get their way, all food processing workers will become "agricultural" labor by a stroke of the pen, their wages to be set by county agricultural boards.

"Plan reported under consideration . . . whereby not only farm labor wages, but all food processing employee wages, including packers, canners, dehydrators, milk, fruit and vegetable distributors, will be set by a system of county and State wage boards directly under control of the Department of Agriculture and big farmer and processor interests," Pres. Henderson wired Chester Davis, War Food Administrator and James E. Byrnes, Director of the Board of Economic Stabilization when UCAPAWA got wind of the proposed move.

"We urgently protest the fantastically broad definition of agricultural labor in this proposal," said Henderson, "which would include practically all food processing workers and all canning, packing and food distributing workers."

To protect the rights of both industrial and agricultural workers, Henderson recommended to Davis & Byrnes

- "that the county and State system of wage boards, if approved, should be limited to apply exclusively to agricultural laborers who actually work on farm operations directly on the farm,
- "that plan so limited to actual farm labor shall have more adequate labor and public representation on county and State Wage Boards,
- "thirdly, that rights of agricultural workers to collective bargaining and rights under the War Labor Board in disputed wage cases shall not be infringed upon or limited by this plan."

All UCAPAWA locals and National CIO Unions have been informed of this threatening development in the Department of Agriculture. Pres. Harry Bridges of the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union, Pres. Jack Wilson of the National Shipbuilding Workers and Pres. Joseph Curran of the National Maritime Union have already protested to the government officials.

(Continued on page 6—column 1)

Tiller Explains Need For Grade Labeling

While Price Administrator Prentiss Brown is backing down on what little grade labeling there is in the canning industry because he "doubts his authority" in the matter, labor and consumer groups are pushing ahead to win the fight.

In a neatly stated telegram to Brown, sent April 21, Dixie Tiller, Int. Vice-President and Chairman of Local 78's organizing drive, put this issue squarely before the Price Administrator.

"Grade labeling is essential in the fresh fruit and vegetable industry," Tiller's telegram stated, indicating that in the Salt River Valley where government inspectors have graded the packs, they found only 42 per cent standard products. "The working men and women of this nation who constitute the buying public are being asked to pay, with government approval, as much as 18 cents for a head of lettuce that in many instances is no larger than an orange.

"Our wages have been frozen as of September 15, 1942, which were 25 per cent higher than January 1, 1941," the telegram continued. "But the price at which lettuce was frozen represents an advance of 200 per cent over the same date. The quality of the product reaching the markets is greatly inferior compared to that of even a year ago.

In Name of Members

"We urgently request, in the name of 7,000 members of our Union who work in this industry that you use your influence to correct this inequitable situation."

Administrator Brown's decision to revoke the grade labeling order for the 1943 pack of vegetables and fruits came after several meetings with representatives of the Natl. Canners Assn. last week. This came on the heels of a statement issued by Brown to the effect that he doubted his authority to institute grade labeling.

Among the fifteen national organizations which have protested to President Roosevelt are the American Assn. of University Women, American Home Economics Assn., Congress of Women's Auxiliaries, CIO, Consumers' Union, Cooperative League, League of Women Shoppers, the Ladies Auxiliary, Bro. of Sleepingcar Porters (AFL) and Natl. Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People.

Lettuce Shed Victory Over Unfair Shippers

By Paul Gardner, International Representative

Phoenix Ariz.—Lettuce shed workers in the Salt River Valley are celebrating one of the quickest decisions yet handed down in a dispute case by the War Labor Board. The dispute over the wages of the floor help took the NWLB, 10th Region, just eight days to hand down a decision.

The Union has had a tough battle here with the unscrupulous Shippers. When Local 78, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Workers Union, started the organization of the industry, the Shippers fought the Union as they had always done. The Union adopted a win-the-war program and was successful in organizing practically all the sheds in the industry, in the States of California and Arizona.

(Continued on page 5—col. 4)

Facing Our Problems

By Donald Henderson, General President

UCAPAWA AND THE C.I.O.

UCAPAWA is not the biggest of the 40-odd C.I.O. Unions—but our obligations and leadership to the entire C.I.O. and the labor movement is of the highest.

Take a careful look at our Union and see for yourself just what major jobs fall on our shoulders at the present time where we must give leadership and show initiative:

Our Special Jobs

1. **We are primarily the Union most directly involved in the production, processing and packing of the Nation's food and fibre products.** We are the C.I.O. "Food for Victory Union." It is our job, the job of our locals, our delegates to C.I.O. City and State Councils, our job in Congress and in the Administration to work out correct "food for victory" policies, to bring such problems before the rest of the C.I.O. bodies and Unions and to help secure understanding and action on the many problems involving the win-the-war food campaign.

2. **We are the only Union in the Nation actively organizing agricultural workers.** We are the spokesmen for the 3 to 4 million agricultural workers of the country. Their problems, and protection and their contribution to the war effort will depend on all of us in our locals, Councils, and Conferences speaking out for these millions of workers largely unorganized as yet.

3. **We are the Union most closely connected to the farmers and the great industry of Agriculture.** This is true of our work because we not only grow and harvest but also process, pack; can, dehydrate, mill, or compress agricultural products. We must help the rest of the labor movement and the C.I.O. to more clearly understand and **act to carry out correct policies in relation to the mass of working farmers, to cement a unity between these farmers** and the labor movement for our mutual interests and for farmer-labor unity in winning the war. Other C.I.O. Unions should be able to look to UCAPAWA leaders and delegates and officials to initiate and give guidance in working out such programs.

4. **And finally, we have the tremendous task of millions of unorganized food and fibre processing workers as well as agricultural workers.** These workers are located in precisely those areas of the United States where the C.I.O. is weakest and where reaction is strongest — in the rural areas of America and in the South (urban as well as rural). Our greatest single contribution can be and must be the organization of these workers. What a change in Congress and in half the States in the Union would follow the successful organization of at least 500,000 of these workers!

Step Up Food Drive

WITH the rest of the C.I.O. we can immediately do a greatly improved job toward the "Food for Victory" program and campaign, toward pushing campaigns and and legislation to secure the all-out conversion of agriculture to a war footing, in defeating the Farm Bloc and its disruptive policies.

UCAPAWA memberships, local leaders and field representatives must work more closely with local C.I.O. bodies in creating an understanding of these problems, in securing action in these bodies for our "Food for Victory" policies. They must be more vigilant in their participation in all this work with other C.I.O. Unions.

The C.I.O. has a many-sided and a correct program toward the War, towards our domestic policies, towards international and labor Unions and towards those problems in the food and agricultural fields which we give leadership to.

Pitch C.I.O. Ball Harder

WE must get in there and pitch harder to push this correct C.I.O. program. We must get in there and work harder to build our own organization in order to carry more weight in solving these problems and in protecting the workers.

Win the War is an empty slogan for us unless we, as UCAPAWA, organize more, give more leadership to the entire C.I.O. in the food and agricultural problems, and work more closely with the C.I.O. in carrying out the correct C.I.O. program.

We are playing leading roles in many States now—in New Jersey, in Virginia, in Florida, in Tennessee, in Arkansas, in Arizona, in California, in Washington. But this is not enough.

Remember. It is not only a matter of size, though we must keep our main job as that of organizing the unorganized! It is also a matter of the special roles which we can and must play in the C.I.O. and the labor movement as a whole.

Let us not shirk our responsibilities or our priviledges in these jobs.

Forward March!

by HAROLD J. LANE, *Secretary-Treasurer*

International Executive Board Meets

In accordance with Article 7, Section 1, your International Executive Board will

meet May 24, 25 and 26, in its first meeting since our Fourth National Convention.

This Board meeting takes place at a crucial time in the history of our country and of our Union. Every thought and action of the Board will be toward the complete mobilization of our membership behind the win-the-war program of our Commander-in-Chief, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Sets Our Policy

Among the more important matters to be discussed will be President Roosevelt's "hold the line" order, which President Henderson so capably discussed in the last issue of UCAPAWA News. The recent order of War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt on freezing labor in wartime occupations and the grade-labeling fight will be given considerable discussion. Also the plans of Chester Davis, Chairman of the War Food Administration, and James E. Byrnes, Director of the Board of Economic Stabilization, concerning farm labor wages, food processing wages, including packers, canners, dehydrators, milk, fruit and vegetable distributors, that would be under the control of the Department of Agriculture and big farmer and processor interests.

The organizational problems will be discussed in complete detail, covering the period from the last convention up to the present time. Incorporated in this discussion will be the growth of our organization covered by the increase in the number of contracts, locals and dues paying members. Also what progress has been made in closing the gap between our dues paying membership and membership under contract, which received so much attention at our last convention. In accordance with Article 18, Section 1, the International Executive Board shall examine the audit of the books of your International union.

Many other subjects, too numerous to mention, will be discussed and acted upon. Among them will be the job of mobilizing our membership behind the anti-poll tax fight and the fight to free the anti-fascist prisoners now interned in concentration camps of North Africa (about which I wrote in the last issue of UCAPAWA News). Material on these issues are now in the hands of all our local unions.

Tell Your Views

We are fortunate in having the most democratic organization—a labor union. Each local union and member should avail himself of the opportunity of voicing his opinion on any or all of the above mentioned subjects, in addition to any other subjects he may have in mind which will contribute to win the war.

Address your resolutions to the International Executive Board and send them to the National office immediately.

UCAPAWA News

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1505 Race Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

DONALD HENDERSON
General President
CONRAD ESPE
Executive Vice-President
HAROLD J. LANE
General Secretary-Treasurer

Vice-Presidents:
LEWIS BENTZLEY
ROBERT CLARK
EVELYN MARKS
LUISA MORENO
OTIS NATION
DIXIE TILLER
ARMANDO VALDES
OWEN H. WHITFIELD

Editor: Cornelia M. Anderson

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Pro-Axis Gov't of Argentina Menaces Labor Movement

The pro-axis government of President Castillo in Argentina is trying to hand out a raw deal to that country's labor movement. By using his police force to prevent the newly elected officers of the Argentine Confederation of Workers from taking office, Castillo has dangerously blocked the war effort of the Western Hemisphere.

When Francisco Perez Leiros, newly elected general secretary of the Argentine Confederation of workers, arrived to take possession of the union offices, he found the building surrounded by a police cordon, placed there to prevent his entrance. Several of the union leaders were arrested. The police were acting for the defeated ex-secretary Domenech, a political stooge of President Castillo.

Henderson Cables

Together with many trade union leaders of the United States, President Donald Henderson sent a cable to Leiros last week, in support of Leiros' strong pro-United Nations record.

"We recognize you democratically elected leader Argentine workers," Henderson's message read. "Protest arrest Argentine labor leaders. Appreciate efforts your organization aid cause our country and Allies in war against Axis. Fraternal greetings and all good wishes. Signed, Donald Henderson."

Castillo's so-called "neutrality" which works for the Axis, is opposed by the democratic people of Argentina. A movement for national anti-fascist unity is winning supporters from among all groups and hopes to defeat the Castillo candidate in the September presidential elections. It is led by the Union Civica Radical, Argentina's largest political party, and by the trade unions. It recently won a significant victory in an election in the province of Entre Rios and has been gaining ground in the decisive province of Buenos Aires.

Fears Movement

Because Castillo fears this pro-United Nations movement, of which the trade unions are the backbone, he has openly used his police to put his stooges into leading union posts.

The Council for Pan-American Democracy, Clifford T. McAvoy, Chairman, is conducting a broad campaign for the release of the arrested Argentine labor leaders and for support to Secretary Leiros.

A Penny Postcard Goes a Long Way

Dear Members:

Sometimes, a little effort on the part of a member will save a lot of time and money for those who are responsible for seeing that you get your copy of UCAPAWA News at home.

Every time a member changes his address the News loses contact with that member until the post office (or an overworked local Fin. Sec'y) lets us know about it. That means the loss of much time, effort and expense. That is, unless you, our readers do just one little thing.

Take a cue from Brother James H. Knight of Local 17. He sent us a penny postcard when he moved, giving his old address and the new one. It was a simple act of brotherhood and efficiency. It took the office only a few minutes to change the address, and Brother Knight will not miss a single issue of the News.

Thanks, Brother, and let's see a flood of postcards from all you movers!

Fraternally,
Connie Anderson, editor.

COTTON SEED OIL AND COMPRESS DIVISION

'Bottoms' Workers Are Up Now

The 400 workers at the "Bottoms" Compress in South Memphis, Tennessee, biggest compress in the U.S.A., can proudly say today that they have the protection of their own union — UCAPAWA, CIO. But it took them two years of fighting to win the right to say so at the NLRB election which was held at the plant on April 10th.

The Federal ("Bottoms") Compress is also known among its workers as the "Memphis penitentiary" and the "hell hole." It stands in a deep, dark valley at the end of the Lauderdale bus run — a huge, dismal, prison-like place, covering some four or five hundred acres, completely surrounded by a steel fence and barbed wire, with iron posts about eight feet high.

To get a true picture of the past record of this huge plant, just spend a few minutes in Handy's Park (Negro) on Beale Street, and listen to the "old timers," old and broken, some with one arm, some with both feet off—listen to them tell the story of how they got crippled up at the Bottoms Plant. Listen to them tell how the boss kicked the man with the cotton truck behind him and made the man run his two-wheeled truck with a bale of cotton, weighing five or six hundred pounds, into his fellow worker, breaking both legs. The story goes, that in days past foremen used electrically charged rods to prod the workers, to keep them on the run.

Discrimination on Job

This plant employs only Negro workers, the only white men employed being the foremen, clerks, etc. Although some of these Negroes have been employed in the plant for some thirty years, no Negro has reached the position of gang-foreman at foreman's pay. Since the war began, many foremen have been called to the Army, but they are replaced by young boys or by some too old for Army duty, many of whom have never seen the inside of a compress.

With only 30 minutes off for lunch, it is not an unusual sight to find about 75 workers crowded into a little Greek cafe nearby, pushing and wrestling with each other in their haste to get food. It was in this cafe, at noon on November 4, 1942, that the Bottoms workers first heard about UCAPAWA's new organizing drive. Rev. Owen Whitfield came in and began to talk to the men about the union and what it would mean to them. They listened and nodded their "amen's" and "damn if that ain't the truth." Brother Whit was right, but how about the tough anti-union company record? How about the 80 workers who were fired two years ago, because the company couldn't stomach the union? It couldn't be denied. The workers were pretty scared of organizing.

Union Gets Going

That's where Brother Abe Marcus came in. He mimeographed application blanks on the backs of 300 stamped post cards. Attached to handbills, they were passed out to the workers as they came out of the plant in the evenings, so that they could sign up at their homes where no one could see them. This started the ball rolling.

The next step was a public talk which Brother Marcus made one noon day at the plant. The bosses came out. Just their appearance scared a few of the workers away, but most of them stood their ground and signed up as fast as they could get blanks.

The superintendent was watching the whole procedure and at the same time picking out the one he would fire, since that would have the most effect on the other workers. So he picked out Howard McCoy, who had been with the company for twenty years and who stood high with the workers. Instead of the workers getting more afraid, however, this tactic backfired on the boss, and as a result, they signed up faster than before and came to meetings at the union hall.

Howard McCoy, immediately upon being fired, became a volunteer organizer for UCAPAWA in his spare time. Fully three-fourths of the men at the plant began to go CIO-conscious in a big way.

This plant formerly employed about 1200 workers, but the introduction of modern machinery in the past several years has resulted in the displacement of about two-thirds of the force. Today the total number employed in the plant never exceeds 400.

A stunt was employed that finally broke the back of the company's resistance to the union. Brother Marcus rented a sound truck and effectively lambasted the superintendent, John Woods, and his stooge foreman, Rhinehard. Since that time, the union had difficulty in obtaining sound equipment.

Election Victorious

The elections were finally held at the plant on April 10th. One hundred twenty people did not vote, because they were afraid that the company would know how they cast their ballots. But the union won, in spite of the fact that for the entire week prior to the election, company foremen were soliciting votes, as they expressed it: "for the company and against the union." This was done on company time and on company property.

The company is proving to be a hard loser. Up to their old tricks again, they are trying to contest the elections. But the workers are solid today, with UCAPAWA staunchly behind them, and they will fight any attempt of the company to have the elections set aside.

Today the Bottoms men join the fourteen other plants under contract with UCAPAWA in Memphis. Welcome, Brothers!

Local 254 Gets Tough With Old Jim Crow

By Dixie Tiller, Int. Vice-Pres.

Fresno, Calif.—"A jury is being selected today in Superior Judge Glenn L. Moran's court to hear the suit of four Negroes who ask $10,000 damages from Mr. and Mrs. Jack Harwood, operators of a cafe and cocktail bar on the Golden State Highway south of Tipton, on the ground the Harwoods refused to serve them July 12, 1942, because of prejudice against their race," reported the Fresno Bee of April 6.

"The plaintiffs are Harold E. Judson, Richard Mc. Clanahan, Sam Wilkes and Vurl McGaughy . . ."

The trial was held. A farce, say the ones who attended. The verdict of the jury was "not guilty." And yet the defendants ADMITTED that they were guilty.

Active Members

The four men bringing the suit are long-time members and active on the various committees of Western Compress Workers' Local 254.

They brought the suit after thorough consultation and with instructions for the entire membership of their Local. They are determined to see that the laws of the State of California protecting the rights of minorities are upheld. They have retained the firm of Gladstein, Grossman and Sawyer of San Francisco, who are also the attorneys for Harry Bridges.

The case will be appealed. The union of only 120 members voted to assess themselves $15 each, and the International has signified approval. The appeal will be costly. All workers who are interested in fighting fascism at home as well as abroad are urged to make any contribution, no matter how small, to help them win their fight. Send all contributions to Vurl McGaughy, Local 254, 2446 Rose, Fresno, Calif.

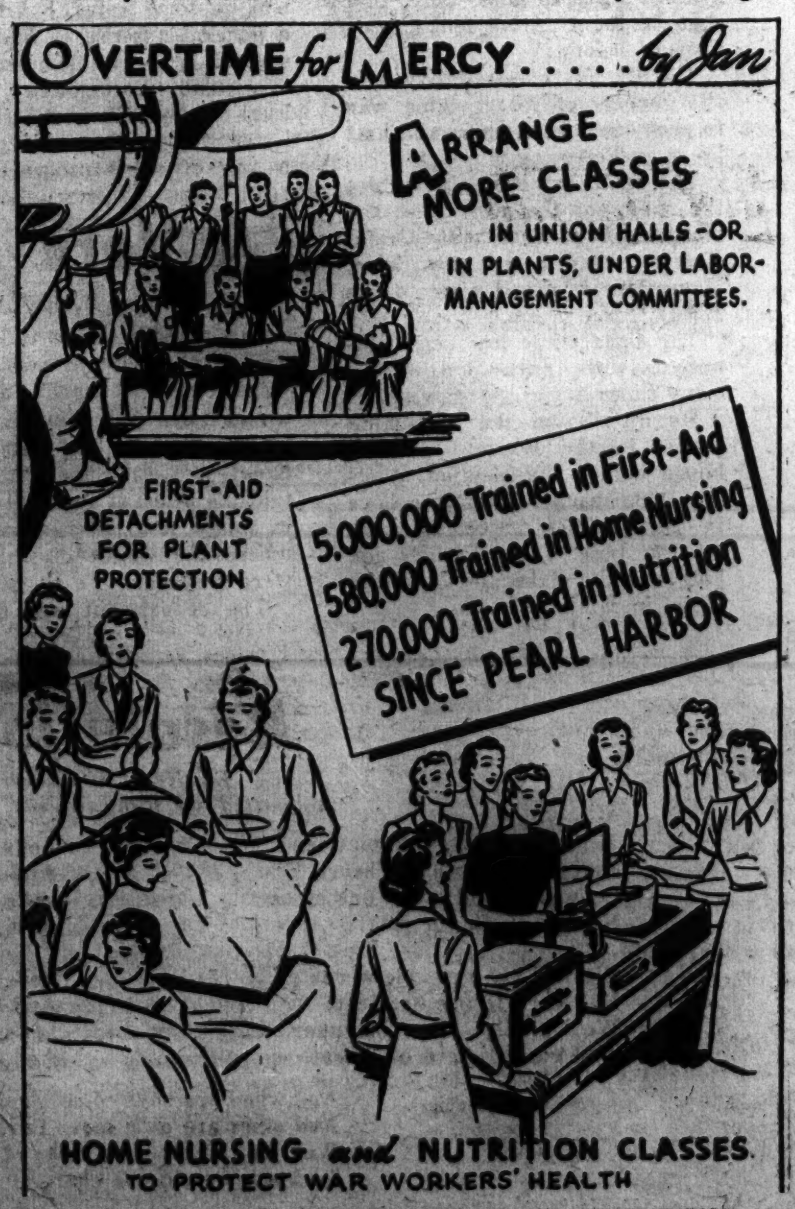
Union Shop

This little Local is in the heart of the Associated Farmers' empire. For years they have fought for their Union. Last year they finally obtained a Union Shop clause in their contract.

They petitioned the National War Labor Board for a 10c an hour increase in wages, and a 40-hour week. Since December, they have been trying to find out what the decision will be. They continue to produce.

They are fighting fascism by working in a vital industry; by buying War bonds; by sending their sons and brothers to the fighting front; by carrying on their fight against discrimination on every front.

They agree with Joe Louis who once said, "there is a hell of a lot wrong with this country, but Hitler won't help." They are determined to carry on the fight.


OVERTIME for MERCY . . . . . by Jan
ARRANGE MORE CLASSES
IN UNION HALLS - OR IN PLANTS, UNDER LABOR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES.
FIRST-AID DETACHMENTS FOR PLANT PROTECTION
5,000,000 Trained in First-Aid
580,000 Trained in Home Nursing
270,000 Trained in Nutrition
SINCE PEARL HARBOR
HOME NURSING and NUTRITION CLASSES
TO PROTECT WAR WORKERS' HEALTH

Hold Public Hearings On Hobbs Bill!

Joseph C. O'Mahoney
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C.

We feel that failure to hold public hearings on the Hobbs Bill by the Senate is unfair to labor who is the intended victim of this bill and will only result in an already growing spirit of demoralization among labor's ranks by recent wage-job freezing, failure to stabilize prices, failure to eliminate huge personal incomes and other reactionry attempts to make labor suffer at the hands of reactionaries who are hiding behind smokescreen of war emergencies. We urge that you do everything possible to see that public hearings are held on this bill.

DONALD HENDERSON, General President
United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, CIO.

New Florida CIO Council Hits Hard At Disrupters

Orlando, Fla.—The growing CIO movement in Florida was strengthened with the formation of a state CIO Council at a convention held here April 18, in the heart of the citrus belt where anti-labor elements formerly ruled with a high hand.

Otis Nation, UCAPAWA Vice-Pres. and Chairman of the citrus organizing drive who chaired the convention, pointed out that formation of the Council would "enable us more effectively to contribute our full share to the war effort by organizing the unorganized and by combatting anti-labor forces that are attempting to destroy unions and democracy."

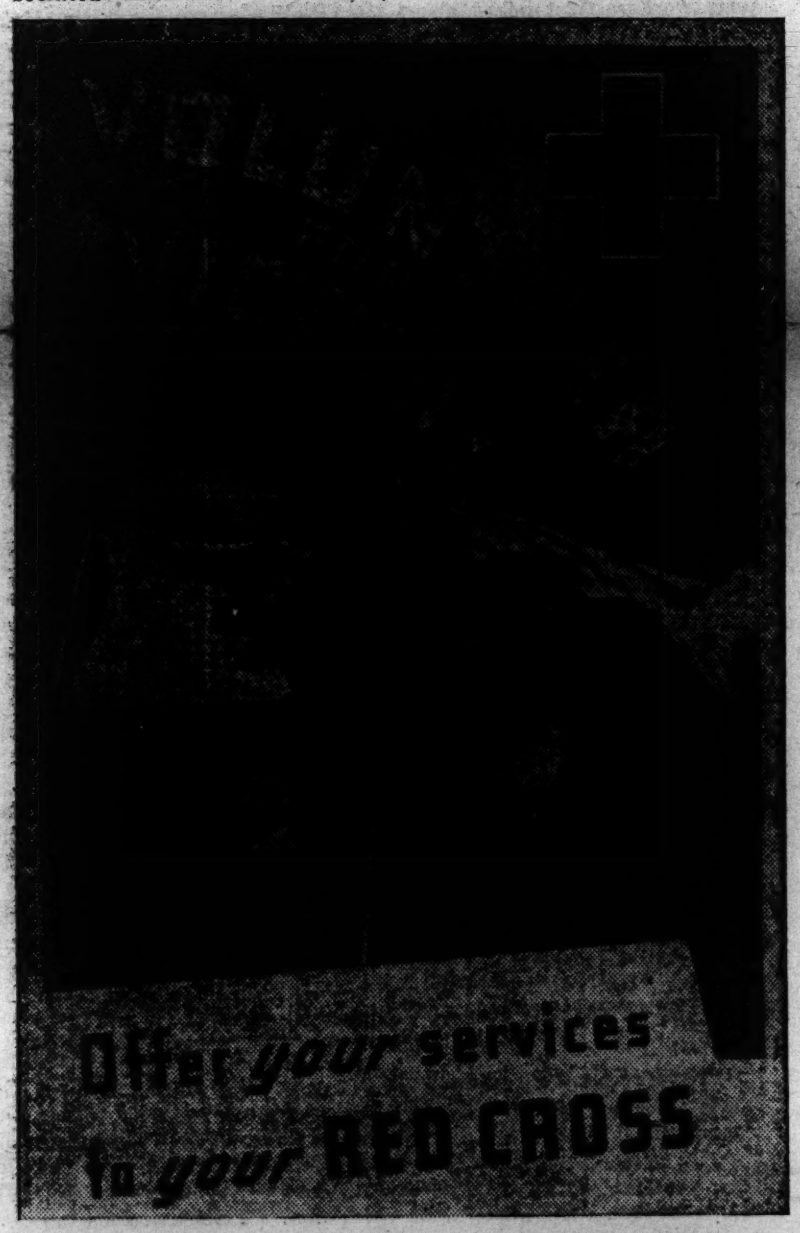
A delegation was dispatched to Tallahassee to attend hearings of the Florida State Legislature to speak against bills outlawing the closed shop and against a bill to "outlaw" unions in the "best" Hitler manner.

On other public issues the convention:

- Condemned bringing Bahaman and other foreign labor into the state when local labor is available.
- Voted combined support to the UCAPAWA and IUMSWA organizing drives.
- Took over the jumps the following disrupters of the war effort: certain leaders of the Associated Industries of Florida, the National Farm Bureau Federation, the Ku Klux Klan, Eddie Rickenbacker, acting as the voice of the Natl. Asn. of Manufacturers, representatives of John L. Lewis' District 50 in Florida, and the Dies Committee, pointing out that such people confuse the public mind with vicious propaganda.
- Recommended that each local make a careful examination of the causes of absenteeism, crowded transportation facilities, lack of child care facilities, etc.
- Called for immediate opening of a European offensive.
- And passed a number of other resolutions, all designed to strengthen the drive for victory over fascism.

Officers chosen for the new state Council are: Cecil Robertson, UCAPAWA, President; William Smith, Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America, Secretary-Treasurer.

Vice-Presidents: O. J. Swanson, National Maritime Union; Robert MacKay, UCAPAWA; J. B. Nimmo, UCAPAWA; Harold Levy, IUMSWA; Leigh Culley, American Newspaper Guild; H. C. Jolly, United Automobile Workers; and Katherine Fisher, American Communications Association. Headquarters of the Council will be in Jacksonville.



UCAPAWA Members Shed Blood To Save Lives of Fighters

Camden, N. J.—"The men took it the hardest." Ethel Jackson smiled as she described the visit of the Red Cross Blood Donor unit at the Campbell Soup plant. And Local 80 pronounced the visit, sponsored by the plant's Labor-Management Committee, a huge success.

Ethel, head of the Safety, Health and Welfare Committee of the Labor-Management Committee, described to UCAPAWA News how the committee solicited pledges from Campbell Soup workers during lunch hour, and the eagerness with which many signed up to give their blood to save lives on the battlefronts. Almost 600 people, workers and management, signed up, and 455 pints were taken by the Red Cross.

The Red Cross unit came to the plant for three days, April 6th through 9th, and took in the blood donors, on company's time. Ethel, whose name was first on the list of pledges, was first to give her blood, and "it didn't bother me a bit," she commented. In fact, although a few of the men and women felt a bit weak for a few minutes after their blood was taken, the general feeling in the plant was one of pride and patriotic satisfaction.

Local 80 hopes to be able to call for another visit of the Red Cross Blood Bank, if the company and Red Cross are willing.

Local Notes:

178 Filling vacancies in the union's official family, Local 178 in Traverse City, Mich. elected Jim Purvis as Fin. Sec'y; E. Van Leishout, Rec. Sec'y; H. Hall, Sgt.-at-Arms; Nila Spears, 3 year Trustee; and Donna Tanner, 2 year Trustee, according to Press Agent E. Van Leishout.

Florida House First to Ban Union Shop

Tallahassee, Fla. (FP)—Spearheading the Christian American drive for a constitutional ban on the union shop in the U. S., the Florida house of representatives approved by a vote of 66 to 52 a constitutional amendment outlawing union security in this state.

The amendment has been sent to the senate, where it is now in committee. If the senate concurs, the amendment will be submitted to a referendum vote at the 1944 general election.

First to congratulate the house on its action was Edward V. Rickenbacker, who wired his indorsement.

Plans to steamroller identical amendments through other states with amendment of the federal constitution as the eventual aim have already been announced by the Christian Americans. This is a followup on their campaign to force anti-labor bills through southern and midwestern state legislatures.

Anchors Aweigh—Nation on Board

Orlando, Fla.—Int. Vice-Pres. Otis G. Nation has been named a labor member of the Regional War Labor Board, according to a Board announcement from Atlanta, Ga.

Rick's Henchmen In the Ku Klux Klan

By Otis G. Nation, Int. Vice-Pres.

Apopka, Fla.—The KKK held a meeting in April for the purpose of reorganizing. Members of UCAPAWA were approached for membership and were told that "a lot of prominent people already belong."

The Klan's representative said the purpose of reorganizing was to promote Americanism and halt labor racketeering."

The union has been able to get the names of the persons at the meeting. Fred Bass, state Grand Kleagle, headed the new drive. Names were turned over to the F.B.I.

The Bass name has been connected with anti-union drives many times in the past few years.

He distributed the anti-union leaflet in the Fosgate packing house before the election, quoting Rickenbacker about the boys in the foxholes in Guadalcanal. At the time, Capt. Eddie's fox hole was the elaborate Columbus Hotel in Miami, Florida.

FIVE TO ONE AT CAL. PAC

Rochelle and DeKalb, Ill.—The Chamber of Commerce boys said: "A union can do nothing for you."

UCAPAWA Locals 17 and 18 said: "Vote CIO today."

And the cannery workers of the California Packing Corporation in Rochelle and DeKalb answered better than five to one: "We'll take the union." The NLRB elections held at the plant on April 14 resulted in a 101 to 20 vote, designating UCAPAWA as the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for Cal Pac cannery employees. At the peak, around 2,000 work in the canneries.

That was the first real crack into the anti-labor record of the two towns; and the Union, which organized the cannery and field workers in January of this year, considers the elections a major victory which will undoubtedly give impetus to production of food for victory. Cal Pac produces Del Monte brand peas, beans and corn.

Disrupters Act

Commenting on the fight put up by the Chamber of Commerce group before the company elections, Jack Fox, international representative for UCAPAWA, said:

"Unfortunately, some individuals have been passing out handbills insulting the union and its officers. The union refrained from counteracting with such circulars, because it would only promote strife and ill-will. The union hopes for the sake of unity and harmony that such practices will cease."

The Story

In a letter to UCAPAWA News, Melvin E. Govig, Financial Secretary of Local 17, tells the story in greater detail:

"Tuesday (April 13) we all received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce, signed by a group of business men, the complimentary close of which was: 'your friends and business men.' Among the usual bunk was the following paragraph:

"'A labor organization in Rochelle can do nothing for you that you cannot do for yourself. Keep your money and preserve your individual rights.'

"The result was not only to win us some votes, but to cause a general absence of business in several local establishments. The Whitcomb Locomotive workers local of the AFL heard about the letter and sent a representative to one of our brothers to get a copy and promptly went to work on it.

"One restaurant which had had a thriving business from Whitcomb and cannery workers found itself serving a few breakfasts this morning to its 'friends and business men,' and you could count them with your shoes on. Our 'friends and business men' suddenly have awakened to the fact that something has happened overnight to their Chamber - of - Commerce - ruled city."

Field Workers

Locals 17 and 18 are now pulling hard for the 1000 Cal Pac field workers who were unable under the law to turn to the NLRB for an election to win collective bargaining rights. War Labor Board hearing on the field workers' case is scheduled for April 27.

The field workers, known as the "forgotten people" of the land, are looking forward eagerly for the WLB decision, since it will determine whether or not their grievances can be settled peaceably.

Union Leaders

Leading the Union over the hump in DeKalb were Curtis Dowden, Treasurer of Local 18 and Enoch Royalty, Chief Steward. Dean Kendall, President of the Rochelle Local, Eddie Mear, Chief Steward of Cannery 109 (and Recording Secretary of Local 17), Melvin Govig, Financial Secretary, and others led the Rochelle elections.

Representing the National Labor Relations Board at the elections was Mr. Schneid, field examiner. For the company, Mr. Seyfarth, attorney; for the Union, Mr. Dean Kendall of Rochelle, Mr. Edward Mear, Rochelle, and Mr. Enoch Royalty of DeKalb, and Jack Fox, for UCAPAWA international union.

"A Very Helpful Time"

Denver, Colo. (FP)—This is the story of a strike threat that was successful in winning—a wage cut. It wasn't a strike threat by patriotic American workers but by the monopolistic Great Western Sugar Co., which told the Dept. of Agriculture that it would not plant sugar beets unless the wages of field labor were reduced.

The department was quick to cooperate and announced that rates for seeding would be reduced from $18 to $15 an acre and the rate for blocking and thinning from $12 to $9 an acre.

"This comes at a very helpful time," said Vice Pres. D. J. Roach of Great Western, which made net profits of $5,280,843 in 1942, an increase of almost 2 millions over 1941.

Resolutions

By Hazel Goldsberry
(submitted by Ruby Wilson, Local 30)

Let's make some resolutions
And take them all to heart,
Let's each and every one of us
Resolve to do our part.

We will not grumble about gas,
But learn to use our feet;
We'll gladly share our sugar
And gladly share our meat.

Let's all resolve to buy more stamps
And help to save the tin;
Let's all of us get in and pitch
And help our boys to win.

Let's save our scrap to slap a Jap,
And help to win this war.
Let's help our boys on land and sea,
And foreign fields afar.

And when our boys come marching home
And skies are once more fair,
We'll be the proudest folks of all
To know we did our share.

NE VOTE UCAPAWA AC. ELECTIONS

Jack Fox, International Rep., UCAPAWA:

"The union today is well organized in the factories and farms of the California Packing Corp. One of our goals is to help work out with management the labor problem which has been so acute. The union will propose the establishment of a labor-management production committee to help speed up the war effort in the plant."

Dean Kendall, Pres. Local 17, Rochelle Cannery Workers, CIO:

"The election proves conclusively that the workers of the California Packing Corp. want the union to represent them in all matters pertaining to wages, hours and conditions of employment . . . It is the task of both the company and the union to work unceasingly toward making this pack the biggest ever produced."

George Jagle, President of DeKalb Local 18:

"The agricultural workers organized in the union are very glad to hear that their brothers at the canneries have voted CIO. The unity of the agricultural and factory workers will go a long way to promote the unity we need for the successful prosecution of this war against Nazism and Fascism. Only a united labor can do it."

Melvin Govig, Treasurer, Rochelle Local:

"We hope to take our place as a community organization in Rochelle and to do our utmost on the production front. That's the main job of organized labor. We are opposed to work stoppages and ask for the cooperation of management and local individuals to see to it that we have a maximum, fruitful, uninterrupted pack season."

ACTIVE in winning elections at Cal Pack were (left to right) George Jagle, Pres. Local 18; Curtis Dowden, Fin. Sec. Local 18; and Enoch Royalty, Chief Shop Steward, Dekalb Cannery →

First Sadik Contract Calls For Union Shop, Vacations, Rest Periods

Lockport, N. Y.—First contract between Local 356 here and the Sardik Food Products Corp. calls for a union shop and check-off, and brings wage increases of 5 to 25 cents besides many other benefits. The Local Committee was assisted by CIO Field Representative Joseph J. Lovas in negotiations.

Women are allowed two 15 minute rest periods, and all workers have 20 minutes' lunch period on company time. Vacations begin with one week for those with six months' seniority, and two weeks for those with a year or more.

Boys in the armed services are paid for one month, accumulate seniority while away and get their jobs back when they come home. (Rickenbacher, please note!)

Time and one-half is provided for work over 8 hours in one day and 40 hours in one week, and also for Saturday work. Double time is to be paid for Sundays and holidays. These clauses are modified, however, to comply with Executive Order No. 9420 for the duration.

Workers on the afternoon shift receive a bonus of 5c, and on the night shift, 8c per hour.

Payment for sick leave runs up to one month's pay for a year's absence.

With full seniority protection and a grievance procedure which calls for settlement by the U. S. Conciliation Service of all unsettled grievances, workers at Sardik have behind them a strong union contract.

Officers of Local 356 are Ruth Sullivan, Pres.; William Chavers, Vice-Pres.; Alice Barron, Rec. Sec'y; George Skeim, Fin. Sec'y-Treas; Trustees, George Fitzgerald, Hattie Shulock and Robert Florer, and Sgt.-at-Arms, Sam LaRocco.

The Bargaining Committee is Ruth Sullivan, Chairman; Mary Wienke; Alice Barron; George Skeim, William Chavers, and Lucy Reese, Alternate.

Next News

To get your stories and pictures under the line for the May 15 issue of the News, have them in by May 8. If you cannot make it before May 10, notify the News and space will be held.

Vegetable Packing Houses

Pacts Ready For Lids

By Robert MacKay, International Representative

Palmetto, Fla.—Florida Fruit and Vegetable Workers Local 9 has already secured recognition and is negotiating contracts with some of the tomato shippers in Florida's rich West Coat tomato section. A shortage of tomato packers has made some shippers recognize the value of cooperating with the Union.

Much confusion arose in this section due to the fact that last fall the tomato shippers failed to get approval of a raise in rates, and they found themselves in line for a penalty and unable to pay the going rate this spring.

Since higher prices were in effect in other organized districts, many packers went to the higher paying districts. When the Union approached the shippers to cooperate on a win-the-war program, the shippers announced that they were smart enough to handle their own problems. A temporary ruling by the WLB has saved the manpower situation for the time being.

But the Union has pursued its policy in organizing, securing recognition and contracts and "keeping them eating." The cooperation of the majority of the tomato packing industry on the win-the-war plank should be secured.

In the meantime, organization and consolidation of Local 9 in other sections is pushing forward, with signed contracts in the cards in Ft. Pierce, Waachula and Pahokee regions.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE DIVISION

Lettuce Shed Victory Over Unfair Shippers

(Continued from page 1)

Illegal Wages

In order to fight the Union, the employers paid many of the workers higher wages illegally, without the approval of the National War Labor Board. The Union objected to this procedure on the grounds that it was being used to smear the Union and the NWLB. A few workers were beginning to talk up the idea that the Shippers could do more for them than the Union could, and that the NWLB was no good, since they could get increased earnings without its approval.

Local 78, however, kept plodding along, keeping the production running as smoothly as possible, until the day of reckoning would come along. This day came on March 31, 1943, when the NWLB handed down its directive order. The order did not provide piece rates for the floor help, and the Shippers realized that to continue paying illegal rates of pay would place them in the position of wilfully violating the order. So they promptly cut the wages of the floor help back to the legal hourly rates.

The Union had long before tried to iron out these matters to avoid such drastic changes which would disrupt the production of vital foods. But to no avail. When the wages were cut back, the workers stopped work. They were placed back on the job by the Union, with the promise that this would be ironed out immediately with the Shippers.

NWLB Steps In

For two days the Shippers refused to negotiate the matter and, with the season almost over, the Union called a work stoppage of all shed workers on 12 sheds, to decide what action should be taken and to bring the matter sharply to the attention of the Government and the public. The NWLB of San Francisco stepped into the picture the same day and promised an early settlement of the case. They gave assurance that the workers would receive justice in the matter if they would continue packing operations. This was done.

The Shippers tried desperately to block a quick settlement of this case, so as to maintain their position of disruption of the war effort. The Union, armed with the record of their win-the-war program in the past, pressed steadily forward and blocked the Shippers at every turn.

The first effort of the Shippers to prevent a quick settlement came when Mr. Paul Prasow of the NWLB flew to Phoenix for hearings. The Shippers were asked to present a piece-rate scale of wages for the floor help. Their answer was, they "had none." This answer, in spite of the fact that they had been paying piece-rate scales illegally.

Stalling Tactics

The Union exposed them by saying that they had a piece-rate scale of wages on every shed bulletin board, put there without first going through the processes of collecting bargaining. The Shippers bustled around and brought in this scale. Next the Shippers tried to have this scale, which was based on a 100-crate basis, used.

This scale was quickly exposed by the Union as being against the interests of the Union and the workers, since the packers and the trimmers were the ones who determined the increased productivity. The Shippers had to agree that this was so. They then tried to stop the case by refusing to convert the entire hourly scale of wages into piece-rates, the same as the trimmers and packers. In order to get a quick decision and put an end to the stalling of the Shippers, the Union agreed with the scale set, but at the same time objected to it on the grounds that it was unfair to the workers.

Major Victory

The pay-off to the Union for its progressive position came when the NWLB approved the wage scale for one week and ordered the Shippers to present them with a break-down of their payrolls to see whether the Union was right or not. When this is done, the Union is confident that the NWLB will uphold the Union.

A major victory has been won and Local 78 is rightly proud of it.

Meet the Shed Workers of Local 78

THESE are the men and women of Local 78 who crate the fresh green lettuce which finds its way to your table as well as to the Army mess halls. These workers have just won a major victory through the efforts of UCAPAWA:

The crate liner lines each crate with heavy wax paper in preparing the crate for the packing operation, and the crate repairer fixes the broken crates, so as to save as many as possible that have only one slat broken.

Truckers and trailer men supply the trimmers and packers with the lettuce in the packing operation. The padman places a pad over each crate of lettuce as it comes down the belt to him. Then the top icer shovels 35 lbs. of ice on top of the lettuce, the paper folder folds in the edges of the paper that hangs outside the crate, and the crate is then lidded by the lidders, checked, labeled and continues on its way into the railroad car.

The turn-boy turns the crates into the car for the car loader to load. Once the railroad car is loaded, the car blower fills the car with crushed ice, and the car full of lettuce is ready for shipment.

The lettuce packing operation is done on a mechanized shed, and these workers have been speeded up by the application of what is known in the industry as the "split bench system." Under this system, the packers and trimmers are paid on piece-rate scale, and the others are on hourly rates. Since the packers and trimmers set the pace for the others, they determine the rate of increased productivity.

Negro-Labor Unity Marks Conference

New York—Locals 26 and 350 of Virginia were capably represented at the Eastern Seaboard Conference of the Natl. Negro Congress, held here in April. Robbie May Riddick and Mary E. Johnson of those locals played a prominent part in working out the conference program aimed to eliminate all types of discrimination against Negroes in the armed forces and in industry.

The conference urged the establishment of a mixed military unit containing both whites and Negroes; endorsed the Fair Employment Practices Committee and urged the full integration of the Negro in our nation's production forces.

Members Praised

Mrs. Riddick of Local 26 won the praise of the administrative secretary of the Negro Congress, Miss Thelma Dale, who spoke of Mrs. Riddick's "profound common sense, coupled with her other qualities as a leader" which "has won her the respect of the Negro people and the Negro ministers of Suffolk."

Miss Johnson brought the spirit of Local 350 to the conference by pitching in to help with the office work.

Aid War Effort

The abolition of the poll tax and passage of an anti-lynching bill were given prominence in the discussion. These measures, the conference felt, would aid the full and successful prosecution of the anti-fascist war.

Edward Strong, national secretary of the National Negro Congress, summed up the contributions of the conference in the following words:

"We believe the conference has made a contribution toward uniting the Negro people with the organized labor movement and with progressive white Americans for fulfillment of these great responsibilities."

The delegates urged the establishment of a second land front in Europe as a means of speedy victory over the Axis.

Allied Teamwork Brough Victory

"It is your victory, too!" says this young private, veteran of the B.E.F. in France and of the British Eighth Army's 1,200 mile offensive against Rommel. This picture is from the official British film "DESERT VICTORY," released by 20th Century-Fox, shot during 80 days of actual battle in Africa.

In a special message to American workers and employers, Harold Butler, His Majesty's Minister at the British Embassy in Washington, paid tribute to the successful efforts of American Labor-Management Committees which helped to supply the vital war goods with which the British Eighth Army rolled Rommel back.

UCAPAWA members can be proud of their part in helping to supply the food and tobacco which are so welcomed by our fighting Allies.

Joint Labor-Management Committees, labor unions and war plants throughout the country are cooperating with local theatres in presenting "DESERT VICTORY" to the workers who helped make this Allied victory possible.

A Fish Story

MR. GERBER, president of Gerber's Baby Food, is having more than a little trouble at the wage negotiations in his plant. Gerber, whose son and vice-president recently resigned from his post on OPA after a little scandal involving worms in his canned peaches, has been as stubborn about wage increases as he has been about grade-labeling on his cans.

From Robert Clark, UCAPAWA Int. Vice-Pres., at the Gerber wage negotiations, comes this interesting tid-bit:

A story was told about a pickerel some 42 inches long and weighing 28 pounds caught out of Fremont Lake. Gerber wouldn't believe the story until it was confirmed by his production manager. Then Gerber grinned and said, well, they must have used a can of Gerber's Baby Food for bait to get a fish that big.

Yeah, said Brother Clark, that's what he had heard. They used a can of Gerber's PEACHES because they knew that pickerel love worms!

Sharecroppers Fighting War With "Head Up"

Harviell, Mo.—In a letter received by the National office, Brother Emmet Yarbrough, Secretary of Local 349, tells a heartwarming story about the patriotic enthusiasm of these stranded sharecroppers who are helping to "feed the Boys who fight the Axis."

The letter follows:

"Local 349 is giving all within her power to the cause of the nation which is fighting to preserve our rights and liberty, because it is better to give now than to live under the heel of fascism afterward.

"Local 349 donated to the call of the Red Cross. We were called on to go out to the East in Massachusetts to produce and preserve food for victory. Twenty-four members of Local 349 packed their trunks and grips and started the 8th of April and will stay there five months.

"We all could not go for some had to stay and carry out the Cooperative Garden Program to produce food for victory.

"Local 349 is fighting with her head up. Where we canned, in '42, 500 cans of vegetables to each family, in '43 we mean to can 1000. We are going to help feed the Boys who fight the Axis.

"Sincerely yours,
"Emmet Yarbrough."

Act On "Hold The Line" Order

Typical reactions from UCAPAWA Locals to President Roosevelt's "hold the line" order included a letter to William H. Davis of the War Labor Board and to Pres. Roosevelt from Local 80 in Camden, N. J., asking that adjustments of wage inequalities and inequities be allowed.

The Local, one of the largest in UCAPAWA, which includes tobacco, cannery and other food workers, took issue especially with application of the new rule to old cases, "many of which are months old."

"These cases," said Local 80, "were held up due to no fault of the Unions or employers, but because of the procedures of the Board; to penalize them for their patience is most unfair."

Local 26 from Suffolk, Va., wired James F. Byrnes in the name of "low-wage peanut processing workers" a request "to give the NWLB full authority to adjust wage inequalities and inequities."

The peanut workers' local also urged Food Administrator Prentiss Brown "to place food prices back to the level of September 15, 1942, so that we may buy the necessities for ourselves and our loved ones."

Int. Rep. Edwin McCrea in an interview with a Charleston, S. C., paper emphasized that labor has long been seeking control of inflation, and that the weak link in the President's Order is that it does not go far enough in holding prices down and allowing increases in wages to adjust existing maladjustments.

Workers in such plants as American Tobacco in Charleston whose wages are substandard will receive consideration, McCrea emphasized, under the terms of the President's order.

Victory Gardens At National Starch For Local 92

By Hershel Lile, Int. Rep.

Indianapolis, Ind.—The management at National Starch has offered to furnish the members of Local 92 with lots for Victory Gardens. The company will pay for the plowing of the ground and the employees will furnish the seed and the work. We think that this shows the fine cooperative spirit that can exist between the Union and management if we all work together.

NOTICE
Exec. Bd. Meeting Postponed

The Executive Board meeting has been postponed to May 24, 25 and 26. Read the details in Brother Lane's column on page 2.

Our Union Acts Against Threat To Food Labor

(Continued from Page 1)

HJR 96

Philadelphia — Schemes to freeze home labor in agriculture-as-usual fashion while at the same time planning to import foreign labor were combatted by UCAPAWA in a series of major moves during April:

In Florida, Local 4 made an offer to the Dept. of Agriculture Farm Labor Administration to make available some 500 workers for the vegetable crops, at the same time protesting the importation of Bahaman labor while American field workers go without work.

From the National Office a telegram was sent by Pres. Donald Henderson to Pres. Roosevelt urging him to veto HJR 96 which allows county boards to prevent the movement of domestic farm labor, forbids the setting of minimum standards for domestic labor, and lets down immigration laws regulating the importation of foreign labor. The bill would still allow the setting of minimum standards for foreign workers, where these have been arranged through international agreement. Such an agreement exists with the Mexican government today.

Under the old FSA administration, which by this bill is railroaded out of the picture, both domestic and foreign labor transported to areas of labor shortage were protected by minimum wages. This arrangement stuck in the craw of the farm bloc who apparently want to keep labor tied to the Southern plantations at starvation wages. Passage of HJR 96 was a major victory for the Farm bloc in its long-time battle against FSA's efficient and fair handling of farm labor shortages.

In urging Roosevelt to veto the bill, Henderson charged that HJR 96 as finally passed by Congress "returns the immigration law to uncontrolled, pre-war status where Associated Farmer interests, large railroads and large planting interests can import labor without any guarantees."

Julius Luhrson, Legislative Representative of the Railway Labor Executives was one of the first of the labor people to urge Presidential veto of HJR 96.

Bankhead-Johnson

On the third front—the Fulmer Bill, HR 1728, which passed the Senate as the Bankhead-Johnson Bill to defer all farm labor from the draft, Pres. Henderson appeared before the House Military Affairs Committee on April 21 to register opposition to this measure which would by no means solve the farm labor shortage, but would strike a serious blow to the Army.

Such freezing of farm labor would only retard the conversion of agriculture to a war basis, Henderson told the legislators, since it would tie workers to unessential crops as well as to essential ones.

Henderson emphasized that freezing workers in the production of short staple cotton and of tobacco, when we have in warehouses today over 10 million bales of such cotton and over one-half billion pounds of tobacco, is as bad as if we had freezed workers on jobs making automobiles and refrigerators, pointing out that these industries have long since been converted to war production of tanks and planes.

Farm labor is at present badly distributed, said Henderson, with thousands of under-employed, poorly paid workers, especially in the South, prevented from working full time to grow food for victory. The Fulmer Bill would only freeze this waste.

Essential farm workers can be deferred, Henderson reminded the committee members, just as essential industrial workers are deferred. This takes no special class legislation exempting a whole section of the population from service in the armed forces.

Who Is Col. Taylor? —The Lowdown:

Col. Jay L. Taylor, deputy administrator and so-called labor expert for Food Administrator Chester Davis, who is proposing to put all food processing wages under agricultural boards, is sketched by Virginia Gardner, Washington correspondent for Federated Press, as follows:

When your correspondent asked the colonel was it true he was qualified on labor because of owning nine cattle ranches and running two private finance companies for farmers and being on the Federal Reserve Bank board, he said:

"That's not quite true. It's three ranches in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma. I'm chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank for Texas and I did manage the finance companies. But my secretary can give you all that. Here, he said to his secretary, "read her the biographical sketch."

"The colonel hated to go," she said sweetly, "but I can give you what you want. His labor background? O, yes, indeed. He was with the Halliburton Cement Co. for 14 years. It operates in 14 states."

"Where does labor come in?" I asked.

"Why, he was general manager And so, of course, he had lots of people under him. Then, too, he traveled very widely."

Free Prisoners!

Reacting immediately to the appeal in last issue of UCAPAWA News for a campaign to urge the release of imprisoned anti-fascists in North Africa, a meeting of Local 26 last week passed a resolution to be sent to President Roosevelt.

Local 26, which is made up largely of low-wage Negro peanut workers of Suffolk, Va., urged our Commander-in-Chief—"to not only request, but to demand the liberation of these anti-fascists so that they may take their rightful places in the fight against our common enemy, and thereby remedy a situation which is causing great confusion in the minds of the American people."

How about the rest of you Locals?

American Women

Both Men and Women Played an Important Part In Organizing the First American Trade Unions; Labor's First Demand Was for a 10-Hour Day

PART 4

BACK in 1830, women found employment as seamstresses for factory hands in the textile mills. Trade unions had already been formed, on local and regional scales, in Philadelphia, New York and the New England States.

These unions were already cooperating with each other, on economic issues and in political campaigns. But, although women were excluded from membership in the trade unions, they had genuine demands and grievances for which to fight. The militancy of the men unionists caught fire in the hearts of the young girls and women who worked long hours under wretched conditions. One of their favorite songs, was this little ditty:

"Oh, isn't it a pity that such a pretty girl as I
Should be sent into the factory to pine away and die?
Oh, I cannot be a slave,
For I'm so fond of liberty,
That I cannot be a slave."

In Part 4, we see the background against which women entered the field of labor organization for the first time. The story is told by Dr. Philip Foner, *outstanding historian. (These talks, reported by* Katherine Beecher, *are loaned by the* UE NEWS.)

FOR many members of UCAPAWA, men and women alike, the history of militant trade unionism only goes back to 1936 and the birth of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

As a matter of fact, trade union history in America goes back to just after the American Revolution. Through the long years since then both men and women have played an important part in the growth of the trade union movement which today is playing such a vital role as our country rallies for the last-ditch fight against fascism—a way of life which would wipe trade unions and democracy off the face of the earth.

The early beginnings of the trade union movement in America can be found in the benevolent associations that were formed in the 1780's.

At first both the workers and the employers belonged to these organizations, since in those days the employer worked side by side with his employees.

Threw Out Employers

In 1786 the New York printers resolved that, since the workers and employers had different interests, there was no place for employers in the workers' organizations. Soon other trade groups, such as the bakers and carpenters and shoemakers, followed the lead of the printers and threw out their associations.

Today, when anti-labor spokesmen like Martin Dies and Westbrook Pegler are loud in their denunciation of the union shop as a "foreign" and "un-American" principle, labor can remember with pride that the shoemakers in 1791 went on record in a resolution refusing to work for a boss who also had work done by shoemakers who did not belong to the union.

First on Local Scale

The early trade unions developed at first on a local scale. The workers in New York had unions, as did the workers in Philadelphia. And, while the unions were different from city to city, they cooperated with one another in such things as exchanging lists of strikebreakers and urging that such men be barred from the union if they moved from one city to another.

In 1827 in Philadelphia the Mechanics Union of Trade Assn. was formed. This was a city-wide organization of skilled workers which grew out of a carpenters' strike which had been lost because none of the other unions had come to its aid.

In 1830 New York unions organized a similar city-wide group and soon the New England unions were organizing on a regional basis like our State CIO Councils of today.

In 1834 the first meeting of trade unions from several states met in New York to form the National Trade Union.

Own Press, Political Action

During this same period the unions recognized the need for their own newspapers and independent political action.

In 1828 the Mechanics Free Press was started in Philadelphia. This was the first union newspaper. In 1829 the Workers Advocate appeared in New York.

Also in 1828 the first labor party was established in Philadelphia and in 1829 New York labor elected a printer to the state legislature. The following year labor in New York sent its own candidate to the United States Congress.

The period of the 1830's was one in which the fight for the 10-hour day was the main campaign of labor. As the result of a general strike in Philadelphia in 1835, workers there won the 10-hour day.

It was in the 1830's that women for the first time came on the scene as trade unionists. Women at that time worked either as seamstresses and tailoresses and shoebinders or as factory workers in the New England and Pennsylvania textile mills.

MISTRESS PITCHER, '43

Mollie Pitcher, a heroine
Whom everyone ought to know,
Manned a gun on the firing line
In '76 or so.
Undeterred by the shot and shell
She aimed a cannon and aimed it well
And blasted the Redcoats, sword and gaiter,
In '76—or was it later?

Mistress Pitcher of '43
(May the Gods of Battle bless 'er!)
Is doing the same, to keep us free,
As her rollicking predecessor.
For Mollie P. in the current war
Is firing a gun from her kitchen door—
That cannon may boom with a boom that's louder,
She's saving the fats that make the powder.

She saves the drippings, she saves the grease,
From skillet and pot and pan
That once in piping-er times of peace
Went out to the garbage can.
And when it's clean as a strainer makes it,
The butcher buys it, the renderer takes it,
And Mollie's hoard (I repeat but facts) is
Soon explosive to smash the Axis.

So maybe a boy in Tunis, now
Where the Nazi legions dawdle,
Or maybe a lad on a hidden bough
In the jungle hell of Guadal,
Or a soldier sent on a Ranger's mission,
Will praise the Lord and his ammunition.
And Mollie Pitcher—the modern one—
Will be the lady behind his gun.

—*PHYLLIS McGINLEY*

V-413

OUR WLB AND RELATED CASES

The table below summarizes the current Conciliation and War Labor Board cases of which the International Office has a record, as of April 24. If your case is not on this list, the reason is that your Local has not reported it to the International Office.

Conciliation

Name	Local
Cherry Growers, Inc., Traverse City, Mich.	178
Consolidated Cigar, Lancaster, Pa.	638
J. W. Eshelman & Son, York, Pa.	101
Four Peanut Co.'s, Suffolk, Va.	26
Gerber Canning Co., Fremont, Mich.	30
Hunt Bros. Packing Co., Fullerton, Calif.	2
Huron Milling Co., Harbor Beach, Mich.	20
Judd Hill Plantation, Trumann, Ark.	85
P. Lorillard, Middletown, Ohio	55
Pretlow Peanut Co., Franklin, Va.	26
Sterling Brands, Sterling, Ill.	310

War Labor Board Disputes

(Includes cases initiated before decentralization, those which were certified after decentralization but for special reasons are being handled by the Board in Washington, and cases recently certified but not yet referred to the proper region.)

Assigned to Mediator, Referee or Panel and Awaiting Hearing

Name	Local	Case No.	Date Certified
California Packing Corp., DeKalb & Rochelle, Ill.	17 & 18	111-549	Feb. 19, 1943
Campbell Soup, Camden, N. J., & Chicago, Ill. (including C. S. Watchmen)	80 & 194	111-910	Mar. 24, 1943

Awaitig Union or Company Comments on Report

Name	Local	Case No.	Date Certified
McLean Arkansas Lum. Co.	98	859	Nov. 27, 1942

In Review Section of Research Div., Washington, with Parties Comments, Being Prepared for Board Action

Name	Local	Case No.	Date Certified
Larus & Bros., Richmond, Va.	577	AR-424	Dec. 22,1942

Awaiting Board's Directive Order in Washington

Name	Local	Case No.	Date Certified
Western Compress, Fresno, Calif.	254	AR-163	Oct. 25, 1942

Appealed from Regional Board

Name	Local	Case No.	Date Certified
Growers Shippers, Salinas, Calif., & Phoenix, Ariz.	78		

Referred to Regions

Name	Local	Case No.	Date Certified
Acmeline Mfg. Co., Traverse City, Mich.	178	R11-23	Jan. 23, 1943
Alaska Salmon Industry	5 & 7	111-704	Mar. 6, 1943
Armour & Co., Bloomer, Wis.	24	111-838	Mar. 17, 1943
Buckeye Cotton Oil Co., Little Rock, Ark.	98	AR11-274	Jan. 27, 1943
Chester C. Fosgate Co., Forrest City, Fla.	4	111-921	Mar. 25, 1943
Consumers Lumber & Veneer Co., Apopka, Fla.	4		
College Inn Food Prod., Chicago, Ill.	13	11-173	Jan. 18, 1943
Koppers & Co., N. Little Rock, Ark.	98	11-435	Feb. 10, 1943
Memphis Cotton Oil, Jackson Cotton Oil, Memphis, Tenn.	99	111-1036	Apr. 5, 1943
Swift & Co., Harvey, La.	309	111-143	Jan. 15, 1943

GUIDE TO POLITICAL ACTION

By Federated Press

WASHINGTON (FP) — For many senators and representatives going home for a quiet Easter holiday the few ensuing days promised anything but a retreat, as organized labor back home prepared to visit them on such vital pending measures as the Hobbs bill, the farm labor bill, the Fulmer bill and others.

It was devoutly hoped here that Congress would return to its duties with some fresh appreciation of America's being in a war, and a people's war.

Labor in the field was expected to demand of returning senators that they restore in the senate funds to the Farm Security Administration, knocked out of the house appropriations bill for agriculture (HR 2481).

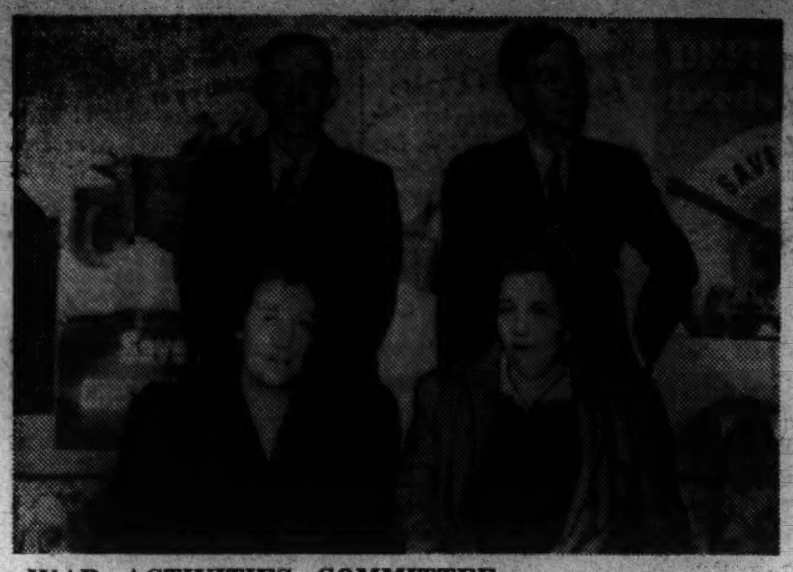
Slated for strong demands were restoration of incentive payments to boost food production and the government's crop insurance plan. A move was on foot to gain support for a possible veto of the farm labor bill (HJR 96), which would prohibit fixing of minimum wage and housing standards for workers transported at U. S. expense from other states. The Fulmer bill (HR 1728) would freeze labor on the farms.

It would leave the entire program of recruiting and allocating manpower to county agents, with no overall authority, and would result in chaos, labor has charged.

The vicious anti-labor Hobbs bill (HR 653), masquerading as an antiracketeering measure, has gone to the senate judiciary committee. Organized labor in order to obtain a public hearing will have to turn plenty of heat on the reactionary committee.

At the same time other bills threatened labor. HR 1483, introduced by Rep. Gerald W. Landis (R., Ind.) will be considered by a house labor committee in hearings opening May 3.

The bill would prohibit any political contributions by unions. Rep. Thomas E. Scanlon (D., Pa.) is subcommittee chairman. Other members are Landis, Augustine B. Kelley (D., Pa.), Thomas F. Burchill (D., N. Y.), and defeatist Stephen A. Day (R., Ill.)



WAR ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE of the DWG Locals got together in front of the colorful war posters in the Local 69 hall in Lima, Ohio, at the recent conference (l. to r.): standing, Brothers Lawrence and Le Hew; sitting, Sisters Steffanson and Settlemire.

Ohio D-W-G Local To Recommend 10c Monthly

By Donna Maxwell, 69 and Ruby Catlett, 70, Press Agents.

Lima, Ohio—Officers and stewards of all DWG Locals met at a Conference March 28 to formulate plans for a bigger and better alliance of Ohio UCAPAWA Locals. Int. Vice-Pres. Evelyn Marks presided.

Bob Clark, Int. Vice-Pres., gave us a review of our recent case with the WLB in which we won a good contract with an increase in wages, vacation with pay, arbitration clause, and maintenance of membership. He stated that DWG workers had paved the way for the cigar industry and set a definite standard for the industry. UCAPAWA has risen high in the ranks of the CIO, said Clark, and we can go still higher.

Conrad Espe, Executive Vice-Pres., gave a very inspiring talk on the further procedure to make progress in our work.

He told of the changes which had recently taken place in setting up Regional offices for the WLB and said that more per capita would be needed to further the work in Ohio. He recommended that each member pay a 10c per capita tax to carry on this work. This recommendation is to be carried back to the membership for a vote.

"Just because you have strong locals, don't get a false sense of security," said Espe. "Don't be lulled into this, or your Local will sink into nothingness." These words may well be taken into the hearts of all members.

Another conference which will include all UCAPAWA Ohio locals will be held May 15 in Lima.

To Win the War

Determined to throw their full weight behind Victory, the conference of Officers and Stewards of the DWG locals resolved:

SECOND FRONT

That a Second Front shall be opened on continental Europe at once.

POLITICAL ACTION

That a Committee be set up in each local with power to act on all communications.

ABSENTEEISM

That protest be made to Senators and Representatives against the use of absenteeism as an attack upon Labor.

FOOD FOR VICTORY

That all abide by the rationing program without grumbling, and where possible, plant Victory Gardens.

BONDS

That since more funds are needed to win the war, all members will be urged to buy more bonds and stamps.

RICKENBACKER

That a protest shall be sent to the Ohio Assembly for inviting Rickenbacker, whose policies are dangerously aimed at labor, to speak there.

Wellman Is Free! Frameup Fully Exposed

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Rejoicing spread through the ranks of UCAPAWA's Tobacco Organizing Committee at the R. J. Reynolds plant here when word came that William Wellman, Negro AFL building trades worker had been granted a full pardon by Gov. J. M. Broughton on April 16. Wellman had been condemned to death on false rape charges.

Some 2,000 names quickly gathered on a petition by UCAPAWA RJR workers, a visit by Int. Rep. Harry Koger, a telegram from the three International UCAPAWA officers and messages from UCAPAWA locals all played a leading part in the campaign which first won a 60-day reprieve for Wellman, and now a full pardon.

UCAPAWA's Campaign

Especially active in the campaign of the RJR workers which included telegrams and letters, as well as the petition, were Int. Rep. William Deberry, Caroline Clark, Eddie Gallimore, Theodosia Simpson, W. B. Davis, Robert Black, Bill Anderson and other UCAPAWA members from the RJR plant.

The RJR Voluntary Service Club of UCAPAWA joined the Natl. Assn. for Advancement of Colored People and the Natl. Federation for Constitutional Liberties, the national organizations which organized the fight for Wellman's pardon, in congratulating the Governor in his fair-minded action in investigating the case thoroughly and granting the pardon.

A brother, Homer Wellman who works in plant No. 97 at RJR said "I am well aware of the good work the Tobacco Workers Organizing Committee did to see that justice was given my brother . . ."

Was 350 Miles Away

How Wellman narrowly escaped losing his life on a wave of un-American hysteria against a Negro is briefly summarized by Federated Press as follows:

Wellman was convicted of rape of a 67-year-old woman in North Carolina and was sentenced to die Dec. 18, 1942. A 60-day reprieve was granted by Governor Broughton Dec. 17 when evidence was shown that on Feb. 11 1942, the time of the alleged rape, Wellman was on a construction job at Ft. Belvoir, Va., 350 miles away.

Broughton then began an investigation, with a promise that he would pardon Wellman if he were found innocent.

Evidence that Wellman was on the Virginia job Feb. 11 was provided by Pvt. Thomas H. Pearson, former timekeeper for the company for which Wellman worked at Ft. Belvoir, and Lt. John A. Hodgson, former U. S. government timekeeper on the project.

This testimony was corroborated by William R. O'Neal, company foreman, and James Casey, a fellow worker with whom Wellman resided.

Word From Overseas

The case reached a dramatic climax April 14 when a V-mail letter was received from Hodgson from overseas. The letter said in part: "Any employee who was paid by me on that project had to give me positive identification before being paid.

"I can say by that, that William Wellman did receive his pay from me on that date. I earnestly hope this arrives in time."

Going Up!

Profits of Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert increased to $394,558 for the year 1942, which is $2.07 per share of common stock. In 1941, profits were $352,641, or $1.85 per share of common stock.

Profits are figured after all costs have been paid.

Among other items taken out as costs in 1942 was a $50,000 reserve for Federal taxes, and $60,000 for adjustment when the system of calculating inventory was changed.

Carmen Parente—Labor's Candidate

Camden, N. J.—"Let's put a Labor Man in this time, Brother!" they're saying here in Camden. That labor man is Carmen Parente, Chief Shop Steward of Campbell Soup Local 80, who is running for the office of city commissioner in the May 11 elections.

Parente, who has been working at Campbell Soup for 10 years, was one of the first to join the union back in 1939 when organizing first began. His candidacy is being endorsed by the South Jersey CIO Council and every major CIO union in Camden. He is the only candidate in the elections who is running on a program of all-out support for the President's win-the-war policies.

You Gotta Organize

By a R. J. Reynolds worker in Winston-Salem, N. C.

Wake up folks! Come on, get wise,
The boss ain't no Santa Claus, you gotta organize.
He belongs to a union called the Chamber of Commerce,
The CIO is ours, the best on earth.
With our wages so low, living so high,
It's enough to make a hard-boiled inspector cry.
Hurry now! Don't waste time,
Put your name on the dotted line.
We'll make this the strongest union in the city
By joining the Tobacco Workers Organizing Committee.

Local Notes:

55 Agreement was reached on a new contract with P. Lorillard in Middletown, Ohio, at negotiations held before a Conciliation Service Panel in Washington. Terms of the contract were approved at a membership meeting on April 22, according to Press Agent Jennie Stiver.

Unusual Union Security provision, calling for $1 "service charge" check-off for all workers in the plant was continued in the new contract. In this way non-members cannot "ride the gravy train" but must pay their $1 a month, along with Union members.

Wages are not written into the contract. They will be agreed upon at a later time.

Other provisions include time and one-half for over 8 hours in one day and 40 hours a week (Monday through Friday), and for holidays. Sundays are to be paid double time if they are the seventh day of work.

One week vacations, top seniority for stewards and time paid for working time spent on grievance settlement, as well as arbitration of unsettled disputes, are other features of the contract.

72 DWG Local 72 in Findlay, Ohio, has made a very good gain in the past month. We have taken in 44 new members, thanks to our very active stewards who are doing a grand job.

Wednesday the 13th of March was a very exciting day in our plant as we received our back pay checks which were very much welcome by all. One of the girls remarked she bet "Gardenia" Sam Gilbert wouldn't be able to sleep for months figuring out how to get back all the back pay he has paid out.

Our stewards reported a very interesting stewards' meeting in Lima, with a chicken dinner at noon.

Following a report on the Council meeting held with Management, we discussed seniority rights, and decided to carry out individual seniority throughout the plant. So, girls, let us cooperate and make this change as agreeable as possible.

A drive for the Red Cross in our plant netted $60.

By Evelyn Clark, Press Agent

The Floor Is Open . . .

Harriet Jacobi of Local 68 sends this letter to the News:

Great Lakes, Ill.
April 8, 1943

Dear Harriet:

How are you and the rest of the Dailey's gang? I'm just feeling fine. I don't know much about the Navy, but I like it so far.

Ralph Presido

I got my hair cut yesterday with the rest of the gang. They throw your hat up and by the time it comes down, your hair is cut. It's only an inch long now.

My brother sleeps next bunk to me. We have lots of fun marching; the only thing I don't like is washing clothes, which we did today, and making the bunk. The chow is fine; we go to bed 9:30 and get up at 5:30.

Boy, we really went through a stiff examination the other day. I have to go on Guard Duty tonight from 7:00 to 12:00. That means I only get 5 hours sleep—I don't mind it.

See shows three times a week; go to boxing matches—that's what I like.

So long,
RALPH PRESIDO

P. S.—Excuse the poor writing and don't forget to send me the paper. Tell everybody I said hello.

Lima, Ohio

Dear Editor:

The Lima Canteen is known from coast to coast for its wonderful work mainly because the citizens of Lima provide the food which is given to the trainloads of soldiers who pass through our city.

It is sponsored by the American Woman's Volunteer Service with Mrs. L. A. Larson, Chairman of the canteen committee meeting the trains. One hundred other women volunteers help her out during the week.

The building, materials, and labor as well as most of the food was donated and other food is bought with cash donations made by groups and persons living in and near Lima. The menu consists of apples, oranges, cookies, sandwiches, milk, coffee and anything else that will help to lighten the pangs of hunger in a young soldier's stomach. Homemade cookies are a great favorite because they are scarce around an Army Camp and the fellows really go for them.

Organizations, and I am proud that Local 69 is among them, set aside one day every week or once a month for baking and turn over homemade cookies by the dozen to the Canteen.

Hundreds of letters of appreciation have been received from fellows in Army camps all over the world thanking the organization and the people of Lima for their kindness and hospitality.

Lima is proud of its Canteen, proud of the democratic way in which the A. W. V. S. carries on its work. We hope we shall continue to bring smiles to the tired, hungry faces of our boys who are bound for destinations unknown.

DONNA MAXWELL,
Press Agent, Local 69